

O 051442Z DEC 00
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8580

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 010666

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: DECL:N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: 2000 TERRORISM REPORT (COLOMBIA)

REF: STATE 21748

11. THE FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY BOGOTA'S SUBMISSION FOR THE 2000 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT, KEYED TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL:

1A. RESPONSE OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO TERRORISM: COLOMBIA'S PROSECUTOR GENERAL (A BRANCH OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INDEPENDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE) CONTINUES TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PROSECUTION OF TERRORISTS. IN 2000, THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS -- BOTH NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) AND REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC), AND MEMBERS OF PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS -- ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM CHARGES. THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE PROSECUTION OF MEMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING AMCITS.

1B. TERRORIST EXTRADITIONS BY HOST GOVERNMENT: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT RECEIVE ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS, INCLUDING USG REQUESTS, TO EXTRADITE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS IN 2000.

1C. IMPEDIMENTS TO PROSECUTION OR EXTRADITION: COLOMBIA'S INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT, THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF ITS NARCOTICS TRADE, AND THE PERVASIVE EFFECT OF CORRUPTION ON ITS POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS CONTINUE TO WORK AGAINST THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF DOMESTIC CRIMINALS, INCLUDING TERRORISTS. THE COLOMBIAN CONSTITUTION OF 1991 AUTHORIZES THE EXTRADITION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONALS SOUGHT FOR CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER DECEMBER 1997, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE. THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT APPLIED THIS LAW FORCEFULLY IN 2000 TO COMPLY WITH SEVERAL U.S. EXTRADITION REQUESTS OF COLOMBIAN CRIMINALS, INCLUDING NARCO-TRAFFICKERS.

1D. RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM. THE PRESIDENCY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE CONSISTENTLY RELEASED PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNING ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM. THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES HAVE MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE DOMESTIC TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS. COLOMBIA BELONGS TO INTERPOL AND SHARES CRIMINAL INFORMATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THE U.S. MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE LEGAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN BOGOTA, WORKING CLOSELY WITH COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ARREST AND PROSECUTE COLOMBIAN TERRORISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND OTHER CRIMES. THE U.S. BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS (ATF) ALSO MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN BOGOTA. ATF IS THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL GOC ENTITIES CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING TERRORIST BOMBINGS. THE ATF HAS A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART AGENCIES.

1E. MAJOR 2000 COUNTER-TERRORISM STEPS: THE COLOMBIAN ARMY AND POLICE TOOK SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN 2000 TO COMBAT KIDNAPPINGS AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTS BY THE NATION'S MAIN INSURGENT/TERRORIST GROUPS, THE ELN AND FARC, AND PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. THE ARMY TRAINED, EQUIPPED AND FIELDDED ITS SECOND COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION,

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL POLICE EFFORTS TO THWART FARC AND ELN LINKS TO NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING. THE ARMY AND POLICE ANTI-KIDNAPPING UNITS UNDERTOOK SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS TO BREAK-UP FARC AND ELN KIDNAPPING RINGS AND GAIN THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL KIDNAPPING VICTIMS. A SUCCESSFUL ARMY MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST THE ELN LED TO THE RELEASE OF SOME 31 COLOMBIAN NATIONALS KIDNAPPED ON SEPTEMBER 18 IN THE CITY OF CALI. TWO AMERICANS KIDNAPPED IN THAT INCIDENT WERE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 21. A SUCCESSFUL ARMY MILITARY OPERATION IN THE SUMAPAZ REGION SOUTH OF BOGOTA LED TO THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL LONG-HELD KIDNAP VICTIMS AND THE BREAK-UP OF A FARC KIDNAPPING RING OPERATING IN BOGOTA. IN OCTOBER, THE POLICE ARRESTED THE HEAD OF AN ELN KIDNAPPING/EXTORTION RING OPERATING IN THE CITY OF CALI. COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GAINING THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL KIDNAPPED AMCITS. IN OCTOBER, THE COLOMBIAN POLICE RESCUED A MINOR AMCIT HELD FOR SIX MONTHS BY INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH THE FARC.

1F. SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

1G. STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES ON TERRORISM ISSUES: NONE.

1H. SIGNIFICANT CHANGE ON ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS TERRORISM REMAINS CONSISTENTLY AND STRONGLY NEGATIVE.

1I. U.S. EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES WITH HOST GOVERNMENT: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH USG INVESTIGATIONS INTO ANTI-U.S. ACTS OF TERRORISM. ALL 16 AMCITS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA IN 1999 HAVE BEEN RELEASED. ONE AMCIT WAS KIDNAPPED IN SANTA MARTA IN OCTOBER, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY COMMON CRIMINALS AND NOT A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. USG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING, TO COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

1J. COOPERATION IN LAST FIVE YEARS:

(1) BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AGENCIES OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN SEEKING TO APPREHEND, CONVICT AND PUNISH INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS AND INTERESTS.

(2) BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AGENCIES OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ARE COOPERATING IN SEEKING TO PREVENT FURTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMCITS IN COLOMBIAN TERRITORY.

1K. COOPERATION TO PREVENT ANTI-U.S. ACTS OF TERRORISM: BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AGENCIES OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN SEEKING TO PREVENT FURTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMCITS IN COLOMBIAN TERRITORY.

PATTERSON